

Attachment C

Supplemental Project Information Sheet

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(Information Provided by Southern California Edison)

Cross Streets: **Highwind Substation:** 19927 Jameson Road (off Tehachapi Willow Springs Road)

Section, Township, Range: Segment 3B begins in Section 36, Township 32 South, Range 33 East of the Tehachapi South U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, and terminates in Section 20, Township 11 North, Range 13 West, as shown on the Monolith USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

Highwind Substation: USGS Quad Tehachapi South; Township 32S; Range 33E, Section 25,26

Zip Code: **Highwind Substation:** 93536

Directions: **Highwind Substation:** From Interstate 215 (I-215), take exit 15 for CA-74 toward Hemet. Turn left onto CA-74 E. Turn right onto Menifee Road.

Latitude(s) and Longitude(s): **Highwind Substation:** -118.3854356 / 35.1095313

Receiving Water(s): The Project area consists of ephemeral drainages that typically originate in the foothills and along steep slopes, with much of the low-lying areas being subject to flash flooding. The entire Project area spans two watersheds: the Fremont Hydrologic Unit (HU) and the Antelope HU. The northern portion of the Segment 3B Project alignment, including the Highwind Substation, is located in the East Tehachapi Hydrologic Area (HA) 625.30 in the Fremont HU 625.00, which includes the receiving waters of Proctor Dry Lake and Mendibury Creek. The southern portion of the Project alignment is located in the Chafee HA in the Antelope HU 626.00, which includes the receiving waters of Oak Creek and Rosamond Dry Lake. Oak Creek, the only perennial stream that crosses the Project alignment, is located near the southern portion of the alignment and parallels Construct 3B-33 eastward to Construct 3B-67. Proctor Valley Dry Lake, Rosamond Dry Lake, Oak Creek, and Mendibury Creek are all considered isolated (non-federal) waters. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for surface waters in the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Region. Beneficial uses of surface waters in the Project area and vicinity that could be affected by the Project were identified for Proctor Dry Lake, the Chafee HA, and Oak Creek, and are summarized in *Attachment B*. Beneficial uses of groundwaters in the Antelope Valley and Fremont Valley

groundwater basins that could be affected by the Project include Municipal and Domestic Water Supply (MUN), Agricultural Supply (AGR), Industrial Service Supply (IND), and Freshwater Replenishment (FRSH).

None of the surface waters or downstream receiving waters in the Segment 3B Project alignment is listed on the 2010 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water Act, Section 303d, list of impaired surface waters.

**Candidate, Sensitive,
or Special-Status
Species:**

Several special-status plant and wildlife species are known to occur within and adjacent to the proposed Project area. It was determined that a Section 7 Biological Opinion (BO) would not be required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) because Project activities would not result in an adverse effect on a federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed, petitioned, or candidate species and Project activities would not affect occupied designated critical habitat. It was also determined that an Incidental Take Permit (per Section 2081 of Fish and Game Code) would not be required by California Department of Fish and Game because Project activities would not result in the take of species under the California Endangered Species Act.

According to several biological resources survey reports conducted by SCE and a review of the ATP Segments 2 & 3 Final EIR, several special-status plant and wildlife species have the potential to occur in the Segment 3B Project area. Nine special-status plant species have the potential to occur in the Segment 3B area, and the following three plants of the nine were identified during focused surveys: Mojave Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja plagiotoma*), adobe yampah (*Perideridia pringlei*), and Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*). No impacts will occur on Bakersfield cactus, and all individual plants will be avoided during construction. Furthermore, no impacts are anticipated for Mojave Indian paintbrush and adobe yampah. Forty-one special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur within the Segment 3B Project area. Of these special-status wildlife species, 11 were confirmed to be present: Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), and desert kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*). All potential impacts on these species will be avoided.

Desert tortoise habitat is the only species habitat that occurs in the vicinity of jurisdictional waters and is anticipated to be affected by the construction of the Project alignment. Desert tortoise habitat will be monitored, and all impacts will be avoided. For those impacts that result in a loss of desert tortoise habitat, SCE will identify appropriate

mitigation lands for habitat preservation, as described below in the description of compensatory mitigation.

Any Required Documents or Plan Submittals (SWPPP, Mitigation and Monitoring, etc.):

SCE is currently covered under the California General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit), State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit No. CAS000002, as a Linear Underground/Overhead Project (LUP), Type 1 for the Segment 3B Project. SCE prepared two stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs), one for the Segment 3B transmission line (WDID # 6B15C362656) and one for the Highwind Substation (WDID# 6B15C361498).

In addition, mitigation measures (MM) and Applicant-Proposed Measures (APMs) have been incorporated into the Project to reduce the extent of impacts. APMs represent a commitment by SCE that was included in the original application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on December 9, 2004 (A.04-12-008) and considered part of the proposed Project. Additional mitigation measures were adopted for the Project if it was determined during preparation of the EIR that the APMs did not fully mitigate the impacts for which they were presented. A current final version of the Mitigation Measures and APMs for biological resources, hydrology, geology and soils, and hazardous materials is provided in Attachment G. Changes may be made to the document as construction progresses.

**Describe Potential
Water Quality Impacts:**

The Project will affect 27 features that are waters of the state. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) claims that all of the affected features are isolated waters (non-federal waters). The Corps official jurisdictional determination is pending. One wetland area (a surface water delineated as a “wetland” in the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, 1987) is expected to be affected by Project activities (installation of new McCarthy drain on access road from Construct 26). The proposed Project will result in 0.19 acre of permanent impacts and 0.20 acres of temporary impacts on waters of the state. Temporary impacts due to vegetation trimming and/or grading in existing access roads are excluded from compensatory mitigation totals. A detailed breakout of temporary and permanent impacts by feature is provided in Attachment B, Tables 1-3.

Temporary impacts from construction activities will be from the installation of new structures (transmission towers, outfall structures at Highwind Substation, McCarthy drains, riprap, gabion retaining walls, and concrete v-ditches), temporary access roads, guard poles, wire stringing, zinc ribbons for Alternating Current (AC) Gas Pipeline Mitigation (AC mitigation), crane pads, and impacts associated with other activities. Permanent impacts will be from the installation of the tower footings and other new structures, access roads, paved wet crossings, and operation of the new Highwind Substation.

Construction of the proposed Project would require excavation and grading activities for construction of Project facilities. Disturbance of soil during construction could result in soil erosion and lowered water quality through increased turbidity and sediment deposition into local streams. APMs HYD-1 to HYD-2 and Mitigation Measures H-1a, H-1d, and H-7 are intended to reduce the amount of erosion and sedimentation that would result from construction. With implementation of the APMs defined above and the required SWPPP, construction-related water quality degradation from soil erosion and sedimentation would be less than significant and no mitigation is required, unless impacts occur within waters of the state.

For portions of the Project located on very steep terrain, there is concern that construction of the power line would result in increased erosion in these areas, with long-term adverse water quality impacts. Implementation of the APMs and the required SWPPP would address short-term construction impacts. However, long-term impacts still may occur in some sensitive areas because of the steepness of the terrain. Implementation of Mitigation Measure H-7 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Accidental spills or disposal of potentially harmful materials used during construction could occur during refueling or as a result of equipment damage. Spilled liquids could wash into and pollute

surface waters or groundwater. Materials that potentially could contaminate the construction area through spills or leaks include diesel fuel, gasoline, lubrication oil, hydraulic fluids, antifreeze, transmission fluid, lubricating grease, and other fluids. Impacts on water quality from construction-related activities would be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of the Project SWPPPs; APMs HYD-2 to HYD-4; Mitigation Measures HAZ-1a (Implement an Environmental and Training and Monitoring Program), HAZ-1b (Implement a Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan), HAZ-1d (Emergency Spills Supplies and Equipment for Construction Activities), HAZ-2a (Implement Spill Prevention, Countermeasure, and Control Plans), and HAZ-2b (Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment for Operation and Maintenance Activities).

Construction of Project-related facilities could result in additional runoff through creation of impervious areas and compaction of soils. Impervious areas and compacted soils generally are less able to absorb rainfall, so increased flood peaks are a common occurrence in developed areas. Project construction may result in small local increases in runoff, but the total area affected by construction would be very small in comparison with the total watershed. Implementation of Mitigation Measure H-7 would ensure that the adverse effects associated with increased runoff from new impervious areas would be less than significant.

Oil from electrical equipment at substations and the series capacitors could be released accidentally and contaminate local surface water and groundwater. However, implementation of APM HYD-4 (Use of Oil-Absorbent Materials to Contain and Control Any Minor Releases of Transformer Oil) would address this occurrence. In addition, the implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-2b (Emergency Spill Supplies and Equipment for Operation and Maintenance Activities) would reduce this impact to less than significant.

Encroachment of a Project structure into a water flow path could result in erosion damage to the encroaching structure. This impact likely would occur only if transmission line towers or other permanent Project features were constructed in or closely adjacent to a watercourse. Although the Project description states that watercourses would be avoided by design where possible, complete avoidance may be difficult in some areas. APMs BIO-3, BIO-5, and BIO-6 and Mitigation Measure B-3a were designed by SCE to avoid the adverse local effects related to floodplain encroachment by avoiding streambeds and streambanks where possible, ensuring foundations are adequate to resist scour, and constructing diversion dikes in severe cases.

A summary of APMs and MMs is provided in *Attachment G – Mitigation Measures and Applicant Proposed Measures*.

Describe Avoidance and Minimization for Impacts to Waters:

Through final design and engineering, the Project avoids several features that would have been permanently or temporarily affected by the original design.

SCE identified APMs that avoid and minimize impacts on waters of the state and water quality prior to submittal of the application to CPUC. Additionally, the overall approach to addressing waters of the state in the Project area is to prioritize avoidance and minimization of impacts on waters with mitigation/compensation employed only where impacts are unavoidable.

A whole suite of avoidance, minimization, restoration, and compensatory mitigation measures has been and will be implemented to reduce unavoidable impacts on water resources to the maximum extent possible, including but not limited to facility micro-siting measures, design revisions, construction monitoring, water quality, and construction site best management practices (BMPs).

Describe Compensatory Mitigation for Impacts to Waters (temporary and permanent):

Temporary impacts will be restored onsite and will also be compensated for offsite. Onsite restoration of temporary impacts will involve revegetation and site stabilization. Revegetation will include application of an erosion control seed mix consisting of weed-free, native plant species appropriate for the Tehachapi/Mojave region that is compliant with the Project SWPPP and the ATP Segment 2 and 3 FEIR (FEIR; December 2006). The seed mix proposed for jurisdictional waters will be provided to CDFG and State Water Board staff prior to application. As required in the SWPPP, monitoring of the erosion control seed mix growth and site stabilization will be conducted on a daily basis until the site achieves 70 % vegetative cover. Once the site has reached 70 % cover, weekly monitoring will be conducted until the Notice of Termination is finalized by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A Habitat Restoration and Revegetation Plan (HRRP; July 2008) was provided with the application package that covers ATP Segments 2 and 3. The HRRP will be used for all temporary disturbance areas requiring stabilization and revegetation. An HRRP Addendum is being prepared by the SCE to address the Segment 3B jurisdictional waters impacts and provide updated calculations and methodologies. In addition to onsite restoration, compensatory mitigation will also occur for temporary impacts at an offsite location. Therefore, 0.20 acre of waters of the state will be restored onsite and 0.20 acre of compensatory mitigation will occur for waters of the state offsite. For offsite mitigation, SCE proposes to purchase an area with comparable desert wash habitat (i.e., Mojave desert wash scrub). The area should provide the functions and values equal to those waters that are temporarily impacted by the Project.

For 0.19 acre of permanent impacts on waters of the state, 0.21 acre is proposed to be mitigated offsite. A separate entity is expected to

manage all offsite mitigation lands, including those proposed for jurisdictional waters, native habitat, and special-status species (desert tortoise) mitigation. A designated Land Manager, and subsequent Land Managers upon transfer, will manage and monitor the compensatory mitigation areas in perpetuity to protect their habitat and conservation values in accordance with the WDRs. The proposed total compensatory mitigation for temporary and permanent impacts is 0.41 acre.

A Summary of Temporary and Permanent Impacts to State-Jurisdictional Waters and Proposed Onsite Restoration and Offsite Mitigation is provided in *Attachment F- Mitigation Tables*.

SCE will mitigate for both temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the state according to the requirements described in the WDRs.

No California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) analyses have been conducted for any Segment 3B Project impacts because CRAM's applicability in arid stream systems like those observed in the Segment 3B watersheds can be somewhat limited. Per the CRAM Riverine Module (Vers. 6; 2012): "There may be a limit to the applicability of this module in low order (i.e., headwater) streams, in very arid environments, and in desert streams that tend not to support species-rich plant communities with complex horizontal and vertical structure. CRAM may be systematically biased against such naturally simple riverine systems."

(Available:http://www.cramwetlands.org/documents/2012-04-17_CRAM%20Field%20Book%20Riverine.pdf).

**Mitigation Site
Location(s):**

Restoration will occur where waters of the state are temporarily affected. Offsite mitigation for permanent impacts on state waters is proposed to occur through purchases of land for preservation. The location of purchased land has not yet been decided but will be considered to address all potential impacts, including those on state waters, native habitat, and special-status species (desert tortoise) mitigation. SCE is currently reviewing available land parcels that would meet mitigation requirements, including native vegetation communities and desert wash habitat.